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Canadians' perceptions of personal safety and crime, 2009

by Shannon Brennan

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. not available for any reference period
.. not available for a specific reference period
... not applicable
0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
^{p} preliminary
^{r} revised
x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
^{E} use with caution
F too unreliable to be published

Canadians' perceptions of personal safety and crime, 2009: Highlights

- The 2009 GSS found that the vast majority (93%) of Canadians aged 15 and older living in the Canadian provinces was satisfied with their personal safety from crime, a proportion similar to 2004 (94%), when the previous cycle of the survey was conducted.

- Self-reported feelings of satisfaction with safety were higher in the eastern part of the country compared to those in western Canada. Residents of Prince Edward Island were among the most satisfied with their personal safety from crime (97%), while residents of British Columbia were among those expressing the lowest levels of satisfaction (89%).

- Despite higher rates of victimization, younger Canadians were more satisfied with their personal safety from crime than older Canadians. In 2009, 94% of Canadians aged 15 to 24 said they felt very or somewhat satisfied with their personal safety from crime, compared to 90% of Canadians aged 65 or older.

- Most Canadians felt safe in their neighbourhoods at night. Over 8 in 10 Canadians said that they were not at all worried when home alone in the evening (83%), and 90% said they felt safe when walking alone in their neighbourhood at night. Overall, men were consistently more likely than women to report higher levels of satisfaction with their safety.

- Just under 4 in 10 (39%) Canadians had used a crime prevention method to protect themselves from crime in the 12 months preceding the survey. The use of crime prevention measures was more common among Canadians who had previously been victimized (57%) than those who had not (32%).

- Almost two-thirds (62%) of Canadians believed that the amount of crime in their neighbourhood was the same compared to 5 years earlier, while one-quarter (26%) felt that it had increased. Fewer than 1 in 10 (6%) Canadians perceived that crime had decreased.

- About one-quarter (24%) of Canadians felt that issues of social disorder such as vandalism, public intoxication, prostitution or drug use were a very or fairly big problem in their neighbourhood. Residents of Winnipeg, Vancouver and Montreal were among the most likely to say that an issue of social disorder was a problem in their neighbourhood.

Canadians' perceptions of personal safety and crime, 2009

by Shannon Brennan

The effects of crime are vast and varied, and may result in many physical, financial, and emotional consequences for those directly involved. Moreover, the effects of crime can extend beyond victims (Jackson 2006, Gardner 2008). Previous research has shown that indirect exposure to crime can impact feelings of security within entire communities, and may create a fear of crime. Fear of crime refers to the fear, rather than the probability, of being a victim of crime, and may not be reflective of the actual prevalence of crime (Fitzgerald 2008).

Self-reported victimization data have shown that, in Canada, rates of victimization have remained stable over the past decade (Perreault and Brennan 2010). In the same vein, police-reported data has shown decreases in both the amount and severity of crime, with the crime rate reaching its lowest point since 1973 (Brennan and Dauvergne 2011). Despite these findings, crime continues to remain an issue of concern for many Canadians.

Using data from the 2009 General Social Survey (GSS) on Victimization, this *Juristat* article examines the perceptions of personal safety and crime of Canadians 15 years and older living in the 10 provinces. More specifically, it looks at their overall level of satisfaction with their personal safety from crime over time at the national, provincial and census metropolitan area levels. In addition, this article examines Canadians' feelings of safety when performing various activities in their communities, and their use of crime prevention techniques in the previous 12 months. Finally, Canadians' perceptions of the prevalence of crime and social disorder in their neighbourhoods are explored.

Perceptions of personal safety from crime

Most Canadians satisfied with their personal safety from crime

Overall, most Canadians feel satisfied with their personal safety from crime. In 2009, over 9 in 10 Canadians (93%) said that they felt satisfied with their personal safety from crime, a proportion similar to 2004 (94%), the last time this information was collected.

In general, Canadians living in the eastern part of the country expressed higher levels of satisfaction with their personal safety from crime compared to those in the west. For example, residents of Prince Edward Island reported one of the highest levels of satisfaction (97%), while those in British Columbia reported one of the lowest (89%) (Table 1). These differences in satisfaction may be partly influenced by variations in crime and victimization rates which, in general, tend to be higher in the western provinces.

Despite relatively high levels of satisfaction, many provinces reported slight decreases in satisfaction between 2004 and 2009. Among those reporting decreases were Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia.

Similar to findings at the national and provincial levels, the majority of Canadians living in census metropolitan areas (CMAs) felt satisfied with their personal safety from crime. Mirroring the provincial results, the CMAs reporting among the highest levels of satisfaction were in the east, namely, Kingston, Moncton and Guelph, while the three CMAs reporting among the lowest levels of satisfaction were located in western Canada and included Vancouver, Winnipeg and Edmonton. These results mirror those of 2004, which also found residents of western CMAs to be among the least satisfied (Table 2).

Satisfaction with personal safety from crime highest among youth and young adults

As crime and victimization rates vary among different Canadians, so do perceptions of safety. Previous studies have shown that fear of crime is not experienced by all citizens uniformly, and may differ based on sex, age, and household income (Keown 2010, Scarborough et al. 2010). The 2009 GSS lends support to this research, as many of the socio-demographic characteristics collected by the survey were found to be associated with increased levels of satisfaction with personal safety from crime.[1]

Despite experiencing higher rates of victimization in 2009 (Perreault and Brennan 2010), younger Canadians were more likely than older Canadians to indicate that they felt satisfied with their personal safety from crime (Table 3). More specifically, 94% of those aged 15 to 24 said that they felt very or somewhat satisfied with their personal safety from crime, compared to 90% of those aged 65 and over.

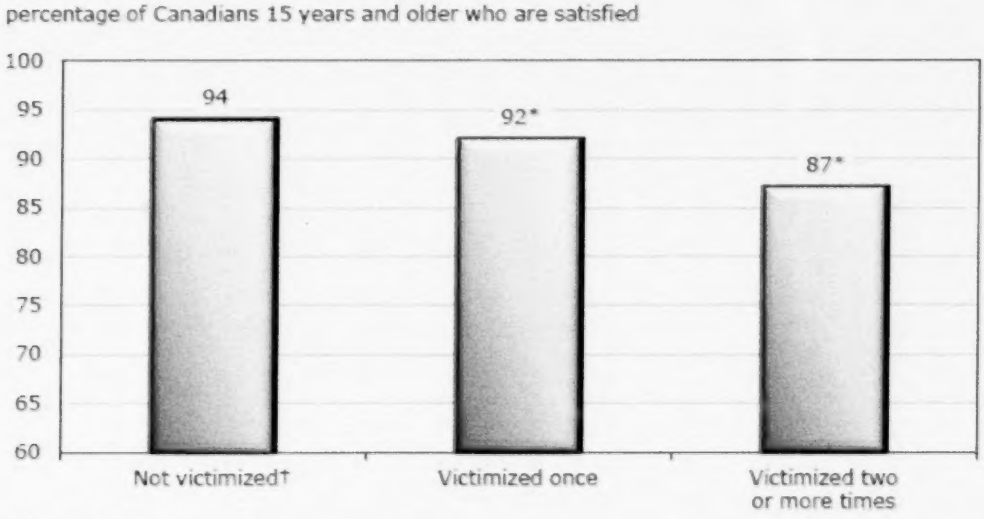
Increased levels of satisfaction with safety were also seen among males, as well as those who had household incomes of $20,000 or above, were non-Aboriginal, and did not have an activity limitation, such as a physical or mental disability. The only socio-demographic characteristics measured by the GSS that were not found to be associated with levels of satisfaction were sexual orientation, visible minority status and immigrant status (Table 3).

Victims of crime report lower levels of satisfaction with personal safety

In addition to demographic characteristics, experiences of victimization have been shown to influence perceptions of safety, with those who have been victimized generally feeling less safe than those who have not (Keown 2010, Aucoin and Beauchamp 2007). This was found to be true among Canadians in 2009.

Overall, Canadians who reported being victimized in the previous 12 months were less likely to feel satisfied with their safety compared to those who had not been victimized. More specifically, 94% of Canadians who had not been victimized reported feeling satisfied, with this proportion decreasing to 87% for those who had been victimized two times or more (Chart 1).

Chart 1
Self-reported feelings of satisfaction with personal safety from crime, by frequency of victimization, 2009



† reference category
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
Note: Data from Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut were collected using a different methodology and are therefore excluded.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

While frequency of victimization was associated with feeling satisfied with one's safety, the type of victimization was not. In 2009, Canadians who self-reported being a victim of a violent crime were just as satisfied with their safety as Canadians who reported being the victim of a non-violent crime.

Most Canadians feel safe in their neighbourhoods after dark

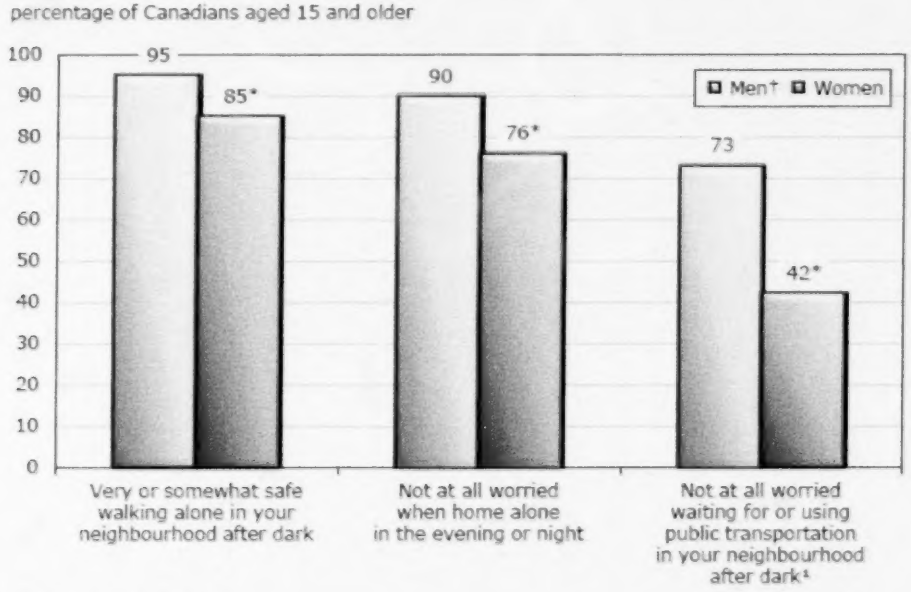
The 2009 GSS asked Canadians about their feelings and perceptions of safety in their neighbourhood while performing certain activities, including being home alone at night, walking alone after dark, and waiting for or using public transportation at night. Studies have shown that fear of crime is often situational, and can vary depending on such factors as location and time of day (del Carmen et. al 2000). The findings from the 2009 GSS support this research.

Overall, most Canadians reported feeling safe regardless of the activity. For example, in 2009, more than 8 in 10 (83%) Canadians said that they were not at all worried when home alone in the evening, while 90% of those who walked alone in their neighbourhood at night felt safe doing so. Canadians appeared to feel less at ease, however, when using or waiting for public transportation at night. Of those Canadians who had access to and used public transportation in their communities, just under 6 in 10 (58%) said that they weren't at all worried when waiting for or using public transportation at night.

In general, feelings of safety did not vary greatly across the country, as the majority of residents in Canada's CMAs reported similar levels of worry when home alone, or when walking alone in their neighbourhood at night. That said, feelings of safety when using or waiting for public transportation varied significantly among cities (Table 4). Overall, residents of Winnipeg and Edmonton consistently expressed the lowest feelings of safety for all three activities, while residents of Moncton expressed among the highest for two—being home alone at night or using public transportation at night.

Across all activities, women were significantly less likely to report feeling safe compared to men (Chart 2). For example, 90% of men said that they did not feel worried while home alone compared to 76% of women. The discrepancy between men and women was even larger when asked about using public transportation and walking alone after dark. Over 7 in 10 (73%) Canadian men said that they weren't at all worried when using public transportation compared to just over 4 in 10 (42%) women. Further, while over 9 in 10 (95%) men said that they feel very or reasonably safe when walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, the same was true for more than 8 in 10 (85%) women.

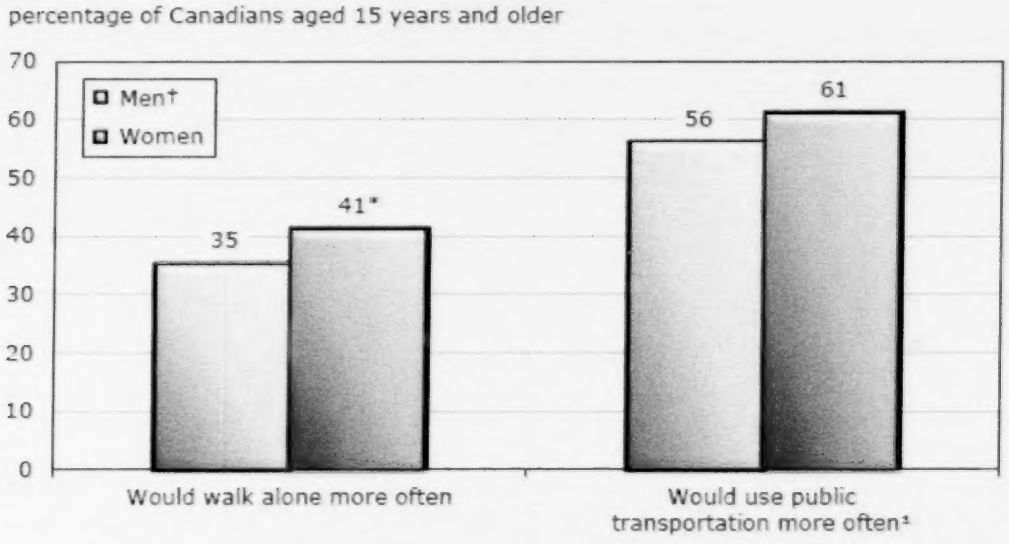
Chart 2
Self-reported feelings of safety while performing various activities, by sex, 2009



† reference category
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
1. Includes only those who had access to public transportation in their communities.
Note: Data from Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut were collected using a different methodology and are therefore excluded.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Fear of crime can often act as a barrier in preventing people from participating in or performing certain activities (Woolnough 2009). Overall, just under 6 in 10 (59%) Canadians said that they would use public transportation alone after dark more often if they felt safer from crime; while close to 4 in 10 (39%) said that they would walk alone after dark more often. While fear of crime may present limitations to the lives of all Canadians, these barriers are often compounded for women (Woolnough 2009). The 2009 GSS found that women were more likely than men (41% versus 35%) to say that they would walk alone after dark more often if they felt safer from crime (Chart 3).

Chart 3
Canadians who would perform various activities if they felt safer from crime, by sex, 2009



† reference category
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
1. Includes only those who had access to public transportation in their communities.
Note: Data from Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut were collected using a different methodology and are therefore excluded.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Victims of crime more likely than non-victims to have used a crime prevention method in the previous 12 months

While the vast majority of Canadians reported being satisfied with their personal safety, many took precautions to protect themselves from becoming a victim of crime. For example, close to two-thirds of Canadians said that they had taken at least one form of precautionary measure in their lifetime to protect themselves from crime, with close to 4 in 10 (39%) having done so in the 12 months preceding the survey. Overall, Canadians were no more likely to have used a crime prevention method in 2009 than in 2004. The most common precautionary action taken by Canadians in the 12 months preceding the survey involved changing their routine, activities or avoiding certain people or places (27%). Other common precautions included installing new locks or security bars (13%), and installing burglar alarms or motion detector lights (10%).

Previous research has shown that the diminished feelings of safety produced by victimization often result in increased use of preventative measures (Aucoin and Beauchamp 2007). Overall, Canadians who had been victimized in the 12 months preceding the survey were more likely than those who had not been victimized to state that they had used at least one type of crime prevention method (57% versus 32%).

In the same vein, the use of crime prevention methods was more than one and a half times higher among people who said that they were dissatisfied with their personal safety compared to those who said they were satisfied (60% versus 37%). Furthermore, many of the same CMAs where higher levels of dissatisfaction with safety were reported, namely, Vancouver, Winnipeg and Edmonton, were also among those where residents reported higher use of crime prevention methods (Table 5).

Perceptions of crime and social disorder

Majority of Canadians believe levels of crime have remained the same over past 5 years

In addition to asking Canadians about their fear of crime, the 2009 GSS also asked about their perceptions of the prevalence of crime and social disorder in their neighbourhood.

Although studies have shown both the prevalence and severity of crime to be decreasing (Brennan and Dauvergne 2011), relatively few Canadians believed this to be the case in their neighbourhood. More specifically, when asked about the level of crime in their neighbourhood compared to 5 years earlier, many Canadians (62%) stated that it had remained the same, while over one-quarter believed that crime had increased (26%). Less than 1 in 10 (6%) believed that crime had decreased in their neighbourhood.

Residents of Abbotsford–Mission, Edmonton and St. John's were among the most likely to perceive an increase in crime in their neighbourhoods, while those living in Regina and Quebec were among the most likely to believe crime had decreased (Table 6).

Perceptions of the prevalence of crime in one's neighbourhood were also found to be associated with one's satisfaction with personal safety from crime. People who were dissatisfied with their personal safety from crime were more than twice as likely as those who said they were satisfied to perceive an increase in crime in their neighbourhood (55% and 24%). Women were more likely than men to perceive an increase in the amount of crime in their neighbourhood (28% versus 23%), a finding that may be partly related to their greater feelings of dissatisfaction.

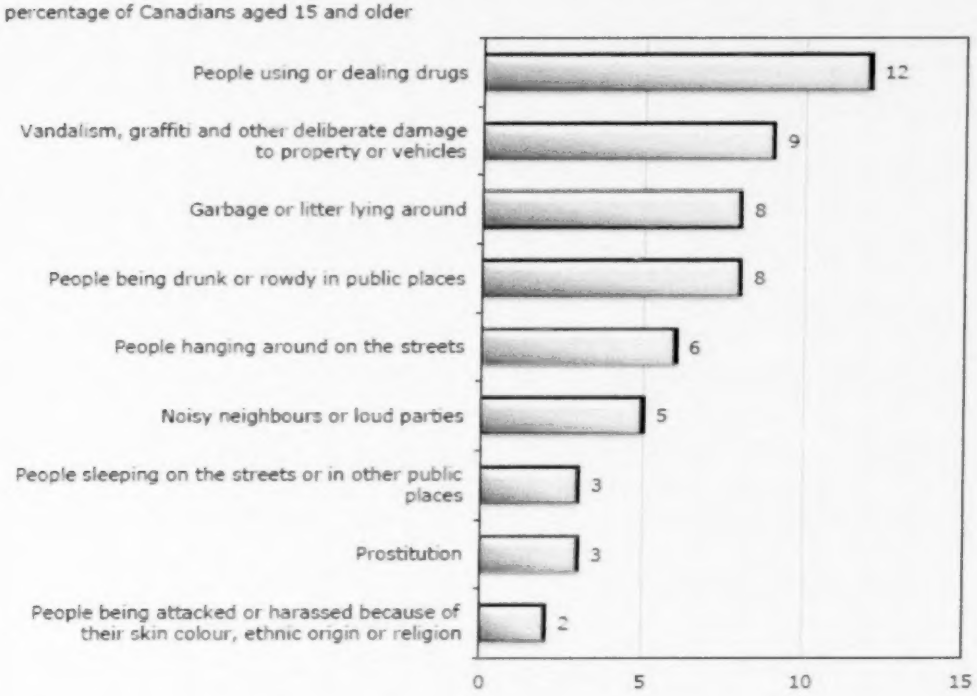
While few Canadians felt that crime in their neighbourhood was decreasing, many felt that crime was lower compared to other neighbourhoods in Canada. Overall, more than 6 in 10 (61%) Canadians said that crime was lower in their neighbourhood than in others; while close to 3 in 10 (29%) felt that their neighbourhood had comparable levels of crime. Fewer than 1 in 10 (8%) Canadians felt that crime was higher in their neighbourhood.

Residents of Abbotsford–Mission, Vancouver, Winnipeg and Toronto were among the most likely to believe that crime was higher in their neighbourhoods (Table 7). For the most part, these perceptions correspond to trends in police-reported data, which show crime rates and severity in Abbotsford–Mission, Vancouver and Winnipeg to be higher than the national average. The one exception was Toronto, which in 2010 had the lowest crime rate of all census metropolitan areas (Brennan and Dauvergne 2011).

Majority of Canadians do not perceive issues of social disorder to a be a problem in their neighbourhood

While crime and victimization can contribute to feelings of insecurity, so too can signs of social disorder, such as graffiti, prostitution and homelessness (Wyant 2008). Overall, many Canadians did not feel that issues of social disorder were a large concern in their community. Just under one-quarter (24%) felt that issues such as vandalism, public intoxication, prostitution or drug use posed a very or fairly big problem in their neighbourhood. Among the issues of greatest concern were people using or dealing drugs in public places and vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage (Chart 4).

Chart 4
Canadians who feel that various measures of social disorder are a very or fairly big problem in their neighbourhood, 2009



Note: Data from Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut were collected using a different methodology and are therefore excluded.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

At the CMA level, residents of Winnipeg, Vancouver, and Montréal were among the most likely to say that at least one issue of social disorder was a very or fairly big problem in their neighbourhood, a finding consistent with 2004 (Table 8). Conversely, residents of Oshawa, Trois-Rivières and Sherbrooke were among the least likely to say that an issue of social disorder was a problem in their neighbourhood.

In addition to perceiving greater amounts of crime, those who felt less satisfied with their safety from crime were more likely to state that issues of social disorder were a problem in their neighbourhood. Overall, those who were less satisfied with their safety were almost twice as likely as those who were satisfied to say that at least one form of social disorder was a very or fairly big problem (45% versus 23%).

Summary

In 2009, the majority of Canadians felt satisfied with their personal safety from crime, both overall and while performing specific activities in their neighbourhoods. In general, Canadians living in the eastern part of the country reported some of the highest levels of satisfaction, while those in the west reported some of the lowest. Increased satisfaction with safety from crime was found to be associated with being young, male and having a household income of $20,000 or above. Although most Canadians reported feeling satisfied with their safety, many used crime prevention methods to protect themselves from victimization.

In addition to being satisfied with their personal safety from crime, many Canadians believed that crime levels have remained the same over the past 5 years. Further, many Canadians perceived their neighbourhoods to be safer compared to others, and most did not consider signs of social disorder, such as vandalism and prostitution, to be a very or fairly big problem in their community.

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Methodology for the General Social Survey on Victimization

In 2009, Statistics Canada conducted the victimization cycle of the General Social Survey for the fifth time. Previous cycles were conducted in 1988, 1993, 1999 and 2004. The objectives of the survey are to provide estimates of Canadians' personal experiences of eight offence types, examine risk factors associated with victimization, examine reporting rates to police, measure the nature and extent of spousal violence, measure fear of crime and examine public perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system.

Sampling

The target population included all persons 15 years and older in the 10 Canadian provinces, excluding full-time residents of institutions. Households were selected by a telephone sampling method called Random Digit Dialling (RDD). Households without telephones or with only cellular phone service were excluded. Combined, these two groups represented approximately 9% of the target population (Residential Telephone Service Survey, (RTSS), December 2008). Thus, the coverage for 2009 was 91%.

Once a household was contacted, an individual 15 years or older was randomly selected to respond to the survey. The sample in 2009 was approximately 19,500 households, a smaller sample than in 2004 (24,000).

Data collection

Data collection took place from February to November 2009 inclusively. The sample was evenly distributed over the 10 months to represent seasonal variation in the information. A typical interview lasted 45 minutes. Prior to collection, all GSS questions went through qualitative and pilot testing.

Response rates

Of the 31,510 households that were selected for the GSS Cycle 23 sample, 19,422 usable responses were obtained, representing a response rate of 61.6%. Types of non-response included those who refused to participate, could not be reached, or could not speak English or French. Respondents in the sample were weighted so that their responses represent the non-institutionalized Canadian population aged 15 years or over, in the ten provinces. Each person who responded to the 2009 GSS represented roughly 1,400 people in the Canadian population aged 15 years and over.

Data limitations

As with any household survey, there are some data limitations. The results are based on a sample and are therefore subject to sampling error. Somewhat different results might have been obtained if the entire population had been surveyed. This *Juristat* uses the coefficient of variation (CV) as a measure of the sampling error. Any estimate that has a high CV (over 33.3%) has not been published because the estimate is too unreliable. In these cases, the symbol 'F' is used in place of an estimate in the figures and data tables. An estimate that has a CV between 16.6 and 33.3 should be used with caution and the symbol 'E' is referenced with the estimate. Where descriptive statistics and cross-tabular analysis were used, statistically significant differences were determined using 95% confidence intervals.

Using the 2009 GSS sample design and sample size, an estimate of a given proportion of the total population, expressed as a percentage is expected to be within 0.95 percentage points of the true proportion 19 times out of 20.

Note

1. Social, demographic and economic characteristics were examined individually. The results do not account for possible interactions between these characteristics.

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Canadians' self-reported feelings of satisfaction with their personal safety from crime, by province, 2004 and 2009

	2004		2009	
Province	**Very or somewhat satisfied**	**Very or somewhat dissatisfied**	**Very or somewhat satisfied**	**Very or somewhat dissatisfied**
	percent			
Newfoundland and Labrador	99***	1[E]***	96*	3[E]*
Prince Edward Island	98*	2[E]*	97*	3[E]*
Nova Scotia	95*	4	94*	5
New Brunswick	97***	3***	95*	5[E]
Quebec	94**	6**	91*	7
Ontario	94	5	95*	5*
Manitoba	93**	6**	90*	8*
Saskatchewan	94	5	94	5*
Alberta	94**	5**	92	8
British Columbia	93***	6***	89*	10*
Total—Canada's provinces[†]	**94****	**5****	**93**	**6**

[E] use with caution
† reference category
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
** significantly different from 2009 only ($p < 0.05$)
*** significantly different from reference category and 2009 ($p < 0.05$)
Note: Data from Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut were collected using a different methodology and are therefore excluded. Responses of "don't know" and "not stated" are included in the total, but are not shown separately.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004 and 2009.

Table 2
Canadians' self-reported feelings of satisfaction with their personal safety from crime, by census metropolitan area, 2004 and 2009

Census metropolitan area[1]	2004		2009	
	Very or somewhat satisfied	Very or somewhat dissatisfied	Very or somewhat satisfied	Very or somewhat dissatisfied
	percent			
Kingston	94	F	98*	F
Greater Sudbury	94	F	97	F
Moncton	98*	F	97*	F
Guelph	91	F	96*	F
Oshawa	95	F	96*	F
Saguenay	97	F	96	F
Saskatoon	92	8[E]**	96*	4[E]
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	96	F	96	F
St. John's	98***	F	96*	4[E]
Ottawa–Gatineau	94	5[E]	95*	4[E]
London	96*	4[E]	95	5[E]
Québec	94	5[E]	95	4[E]*
Barrie	95	F	95	F
Windsor	94	F	94	F
Toronto	92*	7	94	5
Saint John	95	4[E]	93	6[E]
Hamilton	95	5[E]	93	6[E]
Calgary	96	4[E]	93	6[E]
St. Catharines–Niagara	97*	F	93	F
Brantford	97	F	93	F
Peterborough	93	F	93	F
Regina	94	5[E]	92	7[E]
Victoria	99***	F	92	7[E]
Thunder Bay	95	F	92	F
Sherbrooke	95	F	92	F
Halifax	93	7	91	8
Montréal	94**	6**	90*	8*
Trois-Rivières	97	F	89	F
Edmonton	93**	6**	89*	10*
Abbotsford–Mission	95	F	89	10[E]
Winnipeg	92***	7***	88*	11*
Kelowna	92	F	88	F
Vancouver	90*	9***	87*	12*
Total—Canada's provinces†	**94****	**5****	**93**	**6**

[E] use with caution
F too unreliable to be published
† reference category
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
** significantly different from 2009 only ($p < 0.05$)
*** significantly different from reference category and 2009 ($p < 0.05$)
1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data.
Note: Data from Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut were collected using a different methodology and are therefore excluded. Responses of "don't know" and "not stated" are included in the total, but are not shown separately.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004 and 2009.

Table 3
Canadians' self-reported feelings of satisfaction with their personal safety from crime by selected demographic characteristics, 2009

	Very or somewhat satisfied		Very or somewhat dissatisfied	
Characteristics	**number (thousands)**	**percent**	**number (thousands)**	**percent**
Sex				
Female†	12,774	91	1,063	8
Male	12,865	94*	664	5*
Age				
15 to 24†	4,200	94	261	6
25 to 34	4,362	94	242	5
35 to 44	4,461	93	298	6
45 to 54	4,902	92	372	7
55 to 64	3,736	92*	280	7
65 and over	3,978	90*	274	6
Marital status				
Married†	13,177	93	817	6
Common-law	2,967	93	206	6
Single	6,565	93	457	6
Widowed	1,226	90*	93	7
Separated/divorced	1,683	90*	152	8*
Household income				
Less than $20,000†	1,257	87	142	10
$20,000 to $39,999	2,979	91*	240	7*
$40,000 to $59,999	3,558	92*	258	7*
$60,000 to $99,999	5,823	94*	355	6*
$100,000 or more	6,835	95*	360	5*
Aboriginal identity				
Aboriginal people†	781	89	86	10
Non-aboriginal	24,692	93*	1,612	6*
Immigrant status				
Immigrant†	5,252	92	367	6
Non-immigrant	20,335	93	1,351	6
Visible minority				
Visible minority†	3,382	92	259	7
Non-visible minority	22,021	93	1,431	6
Sexual orientation				
Heterosexual†	23,226	93	1,546	6
Homosexual	243	91	21	8
Bi-sexual	234	88	28	11
Activity limitations				
Limited in activities†	7,731	89	780	9
No limitation	17,804	94*	935	5*

† reference category
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
Note: Data from Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut were collected using a different methodology and are therefore excluded. Responses of "don't know" and "not stated" are included in the total, but are not shown separately.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Table 4
Canadians' feelings of safety while performing various activities, by census metropolitan area, 2009

Census metropolitan area[1]	Not at all worried when home alone in the evening or at night	Not at all worried when waiting for or using public transportation alone after dark	Very or somewhat safe when walking alone in your neighbourhood after dark
	percent		
Moncton	91*	81*	94
Saguenay	90*	F	91
London	89*	65	86
Oshawa	88	F	95
Greater Sudbury	88	F	91
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	88	43[E]	92
Sherbrooke	87	95*	89
Québec	87	84*	91
Victoria	87	59	90
Peterborough	87	F	92
Windsor	85	F	88
Brantford	85	F	97*
Trois-Rivières	85	F	91
Hamilton	84	48	93
Saint John	84	67	89
Ottawa–Gatineau	83	58	92
Regina	83	59[E]	90
Calgary	83	42*	91
Halifax	83	51	88
Toronto	82	61	90
Vancouver	82	49*	86*
Saskatoon	81	71	88
Montréal	81	65*	85*
Kingston	81	F	95
St. John's	81	61	93*
Guelph	81	77	89
Thunder Bay	77	F	90
Kelowna	77	F	93
Edmonton	77*	38*	85*
St. Catharines–Niagara	77	F	88
Winnipeg	76*	33*	85*
Barrie	76	F	97*
Abbotsford–Mission	74	F	84
Total—Canada's provinces†	**83**	**58**	**90**

[E] use with caution
F too unreliable to be published
† reference category
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Table 5
Canadians' use of crime prevention techniques in the past 12 months, by census metropolitan area, 2004 and 2009

Census metropolitan area[1]	2004 number (thousands)	2004 percent	2009 number (thousands)	2009 percent
Thunder Bay	51	52*	62	59*
Abbotsford–Mission	73	59*	51	53*
Calgary	395	47*	489	51*
Edmonton	392	49*	443	49*
Saskatoon	89	48*	94	48*
Brantford	23[E]	44[E]	56	47
Regina	69	45	75	47*
Guelph	55	57*	66	47
London	173	46*	177	46
Vancouver	936	52***	885	45*
Kelowna	64	47	62	45
Kingston	39	34	79	44
Winnipeg	270	50***	266	44*
St. Catharines–Niagara	123	37	145	44
Hamilton	240	42	256	43
Barrie	61	45	55	42
Greater Sudbury	55	43	53[E]	42[E]
Victoria	126	47	133	40
Sherbrooke	37	28*	56	39
Halifax	124	40	129	39
Windsor	106	44	95	39
St. John's	41	28***	62	39
Toronto	1,810	43***	1,775	38
Ottawa–Gatineau	409	44***	363	37
Moncton	30	28*	45	37
Oshawa	123	44	110	36
Montréal	1,027	35*	1,099	35*
Saint John	35	35	35	35
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	131	36	112	31
Québec	161	27*	180	29*
Peterborough	43	48**	25[E]	28[E]
Trois-Rivières	35	26*	32[E]	26[E]*
Saguenay	22[E]	21[E]*	33[E]	26[E]*
Total—Canada's provinces†	**10,064**	**39**	**10,742**	**39**

[E] use with caution
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* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)
** significantly different from 2009 only ($p < 0.05$)
*** significantly different from reference category and 2009 ($p < 0.05$)
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Note: Crime prevention techniques include: changing your routine, activities or avoiding certain places, installing new locks or security bars, installing motion detector lights or burglar alarms, self-defence courses, obtaining a dog, or obtaining a gun. Data from Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut were collected using a different methodology and are therefore excluded. Responses of "don't know" and "not stated" are included in the total, but are not shown separately.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004 and 2009.

Table 6
Canadians' perceptions of crime in their neighbourhood, by census metropolitan area, 2009

	During the last 5 years, crime in your neighbourhood has...					
	Decreased		Stayed about the same		Increased	
Census metropolitan area[1]	number (thousands)	percent	number (thousands)	percent	number (thousands)	percent
Abbotsford–Mission	F	F	35	36*	54	56*
Peterborough	F	F	48	54	33[E]	37[E]
Edmonton	27	3[E]*	475	52*	329	36*
St. John's	7	4[E]	90	57*	56	35*
Calgary	27	3[E]*	525	55*	336	35*
Vancouver	104	5	1,101	55*	690	35*
Kelowna	F	F	75	54	47[E]	34[E]
Halifax	18	5[E]	179	55*	109	33*
Thunder Bay	F	F	67	64	33[E]	32[E]
Barrie	F	F	77	60	40[E]	31[E]
Toronto	268	6	2,677	58*	1,371	30*
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	26	7[E]	210	58	104	29
Saint John	F	F	67	67	28	28
Greater Sudbury	F	F	77	62	32[E]	26[E]
Saskatoon	14	7[E]	124	63	50	25
Winnipeg	30	5[E]	386	64	151	25
Moncton	5	4[E]	81	66	29	24
Victoria	25	8[E]	210	63	79	24
Montréal	282	9*	1,868	60*	685	22*
Hamilton	38	6[E]	390	65	126	21
Regina	19	12[E]*	98	62	32[E]	20[E]
Ottawa–Gatineau	75	8	639	66	191	20*
Trois-Rivières	F	F	89	73	23[E]	19[E]
St. Catharines–Niagara	F	F	229	69	61[E]	18[E]*
London	22	6[E]	258	67	70[E]	18[E]*
Guelph	F	F	110	78*	24[E]	17[E]
Saguenay	15	12[E]	92	72	19[E]	15[E]*
Oshawa	F	F	237	77*	44[E]	14[E]*
Windsor	F	F	190	78*	34[E]	14[E]*
Sherbrooke	F	F	97	69	18[E]	12[E]*
Québec	62	10[E]*	450	72*	74	12*
Brantford	F	F	89	75*	F	F
Kingston	F	F	147	83*	F	F
Total - Canada's provinces†	**1,567**	**6**	**17,279**	**62**	**7,105**	**26**

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1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data.
Note: Data from Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut were collected using a different methodology and are therefore excluded. Responses of "don't know" and "not stated" are included in the total, but are not shown separately.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Table 7
Canadians' perceptions of the prevalence of crime in their neighbourhood compared to other neighbourhoods, by census metropolitan area, 2009

	Compared to other areas in Canada, the amount of crime in your neighbourhood is...					
	Lower		About the same		Higher	
Census metropolitan area[1]	number (thousands)	percent	number (thousands)	percent	number (thousands)	percent
St. John's	133	84*	20	13*	4	2[E]*
Guelph	118	84*	18[E]	13[E]*	F	F
Moncton	93	76*	23	19*	F	F
Saint John	74	74*	22	22*	F	F
Saguenay	94	73*	28[E]	22[E]	F	F
St. Catharines–Niagara	229	70*	79	24	F	F
Brantford	81	68	31[E]	26[E]	F	F
Peterborough	60	68	11[E]	13[E]*	F	F
Victoria	226	68*	82	25	14	4[E]*
Kingston	119	67	50[E]	28[E]	F	F
Hamilton	401	67	125	21*	55	9[E]
London	257	67	94	25	F	F
Ottawa–Gatineau	634	65	263	27	55	6[E]
Thunder Bay	66	63	24[E]	23[E]	F	F
Oshawa	194	63	90[E]	29[E]	F	F
Greater Sudbury	79	63	36[E]	29[E]	F	F
Québec	394	63	206	33	F	F
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	223	62	91	25	34	9[E]
Toronto	2,776	60	1,213	26*	497	11*
Sherbrooke	84	59	49	34	F	F
Barrie	76	59	47[E]	36[E]	F	F
Calgary	551	57	281	29	101	10
Saskatoon	112	57	62	31	21	11[E]
Kelowna	79	56	44[E]	32[E]	F	F
Trois-Rivières	68	56	46	38	F	F
Regina	88	56	49	31	16	10[E]
Edmonton	482	53*	315	35*	98	11
Halifax	172	53*	117	36*	35	11
Windsor	127	52	104	43*	F	F
Winnipeg	304	51*	203	34*	74	12*
Vancouver	966	49*	650	33*	330	17*
Montréal	1,424	46*	1,302	42*	244	8
Abbotsford–Mission	35	36[E]*	38	39	22	23[E]*
Total—Canada's provinces†	**16,853**	**61**	**7,901**	**29**	**2,155**	**8**

[E] use with caution
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Note: Data from Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut were collected using a different methodology and are therefore excluded. Responses of "don't know" and "not stated" are included in the total, but are not shown separately.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2009.

Table 8
Canadians who perceive at least one issue of social disorder to be a very or fairly big problem in their neighbourhood, by census metropolitan area, 2004 and 2009

	2004		2009	
Census metropolitan area[1]	**number (thousands)**	**percent**	**number (thousands)**	**percent**
Windsor	38[E]	16[E]***	84[E]	35[E]
Winnipeg	149	28***	201	33*
Vancouver	568	31*	605	30*
Kingston	24[E]	21[E]	53[E]	30[E]
Montréal	857	29*	909	29*
Halifax	97	31*	91	28
Abbotsford–Mission	46	37*	28[E]	28[E]
Edmonton	230	29	247	27
Saskatoon	52	28	51	26
Barrie	22[E]	16[E]	34[E]	26[E]
Victoria	56	21	85	26
Hamilton	137	24	153	25
London	81	22	96[E]	25[E]
Calgary	192	23	236	25
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	71	19	86	24
Toronto	1,055	25	1,056	23
Kelowna	34[E]	25[E]	31[E]	22[E]
Guelph	26[E]	27[E]	31[E]	22[E]
Ottawa–Gatineau	241	26	213	22
Peterborough	25[E]	28[E]	19[E]	21[E]
Moncton	25	24	25	21
Greater Sudbury	19[E]	15[E]*	25[E]	20[E]
St. John's	23	16*	32	20
Regina	44	29**	29	18
Québec	109	18*	113	18*
Saint John	20	20	18	18*
Brantford	F	F	21[E]	18[E]
St. Catharines–Niagara	58	17*	57[E]	17[E]*
Saguenay	F	F	21[E]	17[E]
Trois-Rivières	17[E]	13[E]*	17[E]	14[E]*
Sherbrooke	27[E]	21[E]	20[E]	14[E]*
Oshawa	56	20	38[E]	12[E]*
Thunder Bay	24[E]	24[E]	F	F
Total—Canada's provinces†	**6,149**	**24**	**6,694**	**24**

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Note: Issues of social disorder include: Noisy neighbours or loud parties, people hanging around on the streets, people sleeping on the streets or in other public places, garbage or litter lying around, vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles, people being attacked or harassed because of their skin colour, ethnic origin or religion, people using or dealing drugs, people being drunk or rowdy in public places, and prostitution. Data from Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut were collected using a different methodology and are therefore excluded. Responses of "don't know" and "not stated" are included in the total, but are not shown separately.
Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004 and 2009.